

Fire Extinguishers, The First Line of Defense!

Of all causes of death, fire deaths are the most preventable. The statistics prove that prevention is the smart way to protect your family. A charged and fully operational fire extinguisher is part of that prevention plan to protect your family from an unpredicted small fire in the home.

Every 19 seconds a fire department responds to a fire.

Have at least one multi-purpose fire extinguisher in your home! A single fire extinguisher is capable of putting out or holding back small contained fires until the firefighters can reach your home.

What Extinguisher Fits Your Needs?

WHO? Consider the ages and physical strength of your family members. Make sure the extinguisher can be picked up and operated by the intended users. Do not encourage children to use extinguishers.

WHAT? Consider the types of fire your home is susceptible to and then choose the size or class of extinguisher that is needed

WHERE? Each home needs at least one extinguisher, centrally located, out of children's reach and away from potential fire hazards. Consider additional extinguishers for the kitchen and garage.

Every extinguisher varies so, be sure to read through your extinguisher's operations manual.

The extinguisher you choose should be listed and labeled by an independent test laboratory.



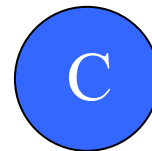
Class A

“Ordinary Combustibles”
used on wood, paper, rubber, cloth, and plastic.



Class B

“Flammable Combustibles”
used on gasoline, oil, grease, tar, lacquer and oil-based paints.



Class C

“Electrical Equipment”
used on wiring, fuse boxes, breakers, and appliances.

Class A-B-C: “Multi-purpose
used on most fires found in the home.

Extinguisher Operation

When a small fire breaks out, have someone call the fire department immediately.

Use the **PASS** word!

Pull the pin to unlock the extinguisher.

Aim at the base of the fire.

Squeeze the lever to discharge the chemical.

Sweep from side to side allowing the chemical to blanket the fire.

Watch the area and repeat if necessary, providing your extinguisher has not been completely discharged. Even if the fire appears to be out, let the fire department check the area for hidden flames or fire that could re-ignite.

Maintenance

Over time, an extinguisher can lose pressure. Be sure to check it once a month. If it is rechargeable, take to a service center. If not, replace it.

Periodically inspect the extinguisher for damage such as corrosion, dents, or signs of leaks.

Most extinguishers for home use discharge in less than 30 seconds. Once used it must be serviced or replaced.

Fire, What Is It?

When heat, oxygen and fuel meet—it's a deadly trio. With in 3 minutes, fire begins to spread from one room of your house and into the next. The more oxygen there is, the quicker the fire spreads.

Home fires frequently start:

- Where chemicals are stored.
- In the kitchen near the stove or appliances.
- Near over-loaded electrical outlets.
- As a result of careless smoking.

Fight or Flight

Be sure you can answer “YES” to all of these questions before attempting to fight a small fire.

1. Is everyone out of the building? Has the fire department been notified?
2. Is the fire small and contained to one area?
3. Do I have a clear path out?
4. Do I know how to use the extinguisher?
5. Is the room clear of smoke?

Any question with a “NO” means - **LEAVE!** And call for help.